

NUSF 99.55

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March 12, 2019

Mr. Michael Hybl
Executive Director
Nebraska Public Service Commission
300 The Atrium, 1200 "N" Street
Lincoln, NE 68508C

RE: In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own Motion to administer the Universal Service Fund High-Cost Program: Windstream Nebraska, Inc. Broadband Grant Requests

Dear Mr. Hybl:

Windstream Nebraska, Inc. hereby submits the attached application for broadband funding from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) for a Fixed Wireless project to serve the Southern area of the Ashland RL05 Exchange. Specifically, Windstream proposes to place equipment at one site, one remote Base Station approximately 6.6 miles southeast of the Ashland Central Office, with fiber placed to the nearest available existing fiber access point. The Ashland remote Base Station will provide the broadband connection to the customers, and have fiber backhaul to the Ashland Central Office. An electronic version of this filing has also been submitted to the NUSF Staff.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Julie Munroe

Enclosures

WINSTREAM NEBRASKA, INC.

NUSF-99 PRICE CAP APPLICATION – Ashland EXCHANGE RL05

Checklist Item No. 1:

A description of the proposed broadband project including download/upload speed capabilities which can be provided and a description of the proposed network infrastructure to be deployed. Minimum speed standards should be 4 mbps download and 1 mbps upload.

Windstream's Response:

Windstream submits the following project for the Commission's consideration of NUSF-99 broadband funding, to be constructed upon funding approval, using funding available from the 2017 funding allocation.

- Fixed Wireless to serve the Southeastern area of Ashland, NE ILEC Exchange (Partial funding requested)

The Central Office for Ashland is currently connected with interoffice fiber facilities. Customers within reach of the office are qualified for 4Mbps down / 1Mbps upload broadband or better (up to 100Mbps), depending on the copper loop length from the equipment. This project intends to address those customers in the Southeastern area of the exchange that have exceptionally long loop lengths and therefore have no or limited broadband availability (less than 25Mbps) by providing a Fixed Wireless solution.

- The project will place equipment at one site, one remote Base Station approximately 6.6 miles southeast of the Ashland Central Office, with fiber placed to the nearest available existing fiber access point.
- The Ashland remote Base Station will provide the broadband connection to the customers, and have fiber backhaul to the Ashland Central Office.

These network upgrades will enable a network capable of minimum speeds of 10Mbps download and 1Mbps upload for all impacted customers and depending upon the distance from the remote Base Station, the majority of customers will have speeds of 25Mbps and up to 100Mbps available.

Windstream projects the total deployment costs for this project is \$134,423, and Windstream is requesting Nebraska Universal Service Funding of \$69,290, the difference between the total project costs and the requested funding is because Windstream is not seeking funding for the areas funded by the FCC's Connect America Fund Phase 2 program. Windstream is requesting that the funding for this project be applied against the remaining 2017 funds allotted to Windstream.

Attached Checklist Item #6 provides a listing of the retail pricing for the broadband services Windstream will be offering in the proposed service areas. This price list is consistent with Windstream pricing for similar services in other Nebraska exchanges.

Checklist Item No. 7:

The company's commitment to offer broadband services to all households within the service area of the project for a minimum of five (5) years.

Windstream Response:

If approved for funding, Windstream commits to offer broadband service to all households within the service area of the project for a minimum of five (5) years.

Checklist Item No. 8:

An affidavit from the company attesting 1) (a) that the area of the proposed project is a CAF II eligible area and have not refused CAF II funding, or (b) that the area of the proposed project is ineligible for CAF II funding. 2) That the company has done its due diligence to verify that comparable broadband does not already exist in the area of the proposed project. 3) The truth and accuracy of all information included in the project filing.

Windstream Response:

The Affidavit of Brad Brannon is provided in Attached Checklist Item #8.

CHECK LIST #2 CENSUS BLOCKS - Ashland Exchange RL05

Criteria for Determining NUSF Eligibility for Census Blocks in Priority Order for Projects Using Fixed Wireless Technology:

- 1) If Census Block is CAF 2 - Not Eligible
- 2) If Census Block has Wireline Competitor with at least 10/1 broadband - Not Eligible
- 3) If Census Block Wireline Competitor is a Neighboring ILEC Sharing Service in the Census Block - Eligible
- 4) If Census Block has a Fixed Wireless Competitor with at least 10/1 Broadband but Does Not Provide Voice - Eligible
- 5) If Census Block has a Fixed Wireless Competitor that receives federal USF - Eligible
- 6) If proposal is for a wireline solution, then Fixed Wireless census blocks are counted - Eligible

Census Blocks	CAF 2 and Form 477 Status	Is Wireline Competitor a Neighboring ILEC? *	Does Fixed Wireless Competitor Provide Voice Service? **	NUSF Eligibility	Summary	# Census Blocks	%
310259658001009	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	47	48%
310259658001011	CAF2			CAF2	NE BB Eligible	50	52%
310259658001014	CAF2			CAF2	Competition - FW	0	0%
310259658001016	CAF2			CAF2	Competition - Other	0	0%
310259658001017	CAF2			CAF2	Total	97	100%
310259658001019	CAF2			CAF2	Eligible for Funding	50	51.5%
310259658001020	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001022	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001054	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001055	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002080	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002113	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002132	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002133	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002142	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002144	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002146	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002150	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002153	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002154	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002155	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002160	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002163	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002175	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002177	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002184	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002185	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002189	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002191	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002192	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002195	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002196	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002199	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002202	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002205	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002206	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002208	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002209	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002211	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002222	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002226	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002227	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002228	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002247	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002249	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002250	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658002251	CAF2			CAF2			

Check List #3 Subscribers - Ashland Exchange RL05

Exchange	# Locations in Deployment Area
Ashland	83

Estimated Broadband Take Rate 50%

New Broadband Subscribers 42

50% Take Rate assumption is likely low since broadband is generally not available due to long loop lengths

Checklist Item #4 Estimated Schedule – Ashland Exchange RL05

Proposed Schedule:

Engineering design & approval	30 Calendar Days
Site Acquisition, permitting & material acquisition	90 to 120 Calendar Days
Equipment deployment, testing, and turn-up	30 Calendar Days

Notes:

If multiple sites are involved, work activities will be conducted concurrently, so that total time for the project is 150 to 180 days

Schedule is subject to seasonal limitations regarding when construction can commence or be completed.

Check List #5 Budget & Depreciation - Ashland Exchange RL05

Budget

Remote Sites

Item	Labor	Material	Item Total	Quantity	Mat Total	Grand Total	Notes
Site Survey	\$1,065	\$0	\$1,065	1	\$0	\$1,065	
Fiber Buildout	\$8,505	\$3,645	\$12,150	1	\$3,645	\$12,150	Placement of 1,800 ft of fiber cable
Desktop Planning	\$18	\$0	\$18	83	\$0	\$1,494	
Site Engineering	\$3,635	\$0	\$3,635	1	\$0	\$3,635	
Site Acquisition	\$7,100	\$0	\$7,100	1	\$0	\$7,100	
Power Make Ready	\$7,995	\$0	\$7,995	1	\$0	\$7,995	
95' AGL Wood Pole	\$0	\$23,800	\$23,800	1	\$23,800	\$23,800	
Base Station	\$4,433	\$5,513	\$9,946	4	\$22,054	\$39,784	5 GHz PtMP radio
PtP Radio	\$7,125	\$8,825	\$15,950	0	\$0	\$0	Assuming 18 GHz radio - Link Budget Calculation pending
Site Work	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	1	\$15,000	\$20,000	Placeholder for fiber + electricity work + pole mounted cabinet
Cabinet/PoE Switch	\$0	\$13,500	\$13,500	1	\$13,500	\$13,500	Pole-mounted
Total					\$77,999	\$130,523	

Tax	\$77,999	5.00%		\$3,900
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Grand Total				\$134,423
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Excluded

ROW				\$0
IDC	\$77,999	5.00%		\$3,900

Total Project Costs	\$134,423
% of Eligible Census Blocks from Checklist #2	51.5%
Requested Funding Amount	\$69,290

Depreciation Lives

	Life in Years
Fixed Wireless Assets	45
Poles	33

Check List #6 Pricing - Ashland Exchange RL05

Price for Internet Only (HSI Simple or Solo Internet)				
Speed		Standard Price	Current Promo	Net Price
Up to 25Mb		\$45	\$10 off for 12 months	\$35
50Mb		\$45	\$10 off for 12 months	\$35
100Mb		\$45	\$10 off for 12 months	\$35
1 Gbps		\$75	\$20 off for 12 months	\$55

Price for Internet + Bundle Phone Adder				
Speed		Standard Price	Current Promo	Net Price
Up to 25Mb		\$65	\$10 off for 12 months	\$55
50Mb		\$65	\$10 off for 12 months	\$55
100Mb		\$65	\$10 off for 12 months	\$55
1 Gbps		\$95	\$20 off for 12 months	\$75

\$50 Activation Fee and Free Professional Installation

AFFIDAVIT OF BRAD BRANNON

I, Brad Brannon, being first duly sworn upon oath, state as follows:

1. I am currently employed by Windstream as the Vice President Consumer & Small Business - Business Intelligence. In that capacity, I am personally familiar with the company's network structure in Nebraska.
2. I have reviewed the foregoing project filing and certify that (a) the areas of the proposed project are CAF II eligible areas and have not refused CAF II funding, or the areas of the proposed project are ineligible for CAF II funding; (b) Windstream has done its due diligence to verify that comparable broadband does not already exist in the areas of the proposed project that we are requesting funding; and (c) all information included in the project filing is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Brad Brannon


ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF ARKANSAS)

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COUNTY OF PULASKI

Subscribed, sworn to and acknowledged before me on this 5 day of April, 2018
by Brad Brannon



Notary Public

